

ABAG and the Bay Area Climate Change Strategy

Presentation to the Joint Policy Committee

March 16, 2007

Ken Kirkey



ABAG's role in a Bay Area Climate Change Strategy

- Existing Programs/Initiatives
 - ABAG Energy Watch
 - Earthquake and Hazards Program
 - Water Resources Planning
 - Green Business Program
 - San Francisco Estuary Project
 - Regional Planning/FOCUS
- Potential Programs/Initiatives



ABAG Energy Watch

- Provides free energy assistance to local governments
- Increase energy efficiency, reduce costs
- Local Government Facilities Energy Audits
- Financial and Technical Implementation Assistance

Climate Change Strategy:

- Mitigation role
- Reduce local energy use
- Develop long-range energy plans and policies
- Prepare model ordinances



Earthquake and Hazard Mitigation

- Development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)
- Includes impacts from climate change
- Local outreach for plan implementation assistance
- Parcel-based exposure estimates

Climate Change Strategy:

- Mitigation and Adaptation role
- Help local governments prepare for inevitable consequences
- Assist in implementing LHMP



Water Resources Planning Program

- Delta Levee Technical Working Group
 - Analyzing impacts of sea-level rise on water and power infrastructure, biological areas
- Critical Coastal Areas Project

Climate Change Strategy:

- Mitigation role
- Provide policy recommendations to agencies to prevent devastating impacts on water and power supply



Green Business Program

- Certifies businesses that actively reduce environmental footprint
- Administers seven county programs
- 850 businesses and agencies certified since 1996

Climate Change Strategy:

- Mitigation role
- Help businesses to reduce overall environmental footprint, including reduction of GhG emissions
- Web-based GhG emission calculator for businesses, agencies



San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP)

- Works to protect, enhance, and restore Bay Area wetlands
- Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP)
- Scientific research, policy development, management plans

Climate Change Strategy:

- Possible mitigation role
- Inundation of many tidal wetlands is possible
- CCMP update addressing impacts to wetlands due to sea-level rise
- Wetlands will still play natural flood prevention role



Regional Land Use Planning – FOCUS

- Regional Planning - Association of Bay Area's Government's Core mission
- FOCUS – Multi-agency Initiative
- Developing a regional consensus on where growth should go (Priority Development Areas) and where it shouldn't (Priority Conservation Areas)

Climate Change Strategy:

- Mitigation role
- Co-benefits related to affordable housing, community revitalization, social equity, quality of life, and other air quality issues
- Will not work without incentives (State, Federal, Regional money)



ABAG's Overall Role

- Land Use Planning
 - Advance FOCUS w. Regional Agency Partners
 - Incentives for growth in the right places
- Regional Clearinghouse
 - Best practices, model ordinances for carbon reduction
 - Pooled Carbon Contracts for Jurisdictions (building on ICLEI success with individual cities)
- Assist in development of Multi-Jurisdictional Local Climate Action Plans
- Legislative Advocacy
 - Promote incentives for transit usage
 - Investments in Infrastructure, Schools, Parks related to Infill, TOD
- Coordinate Efforts w. Regional Agency Partners

